Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, PFOR,IS

SUBJECT: DMC ANNOUNCES DRAFT FOREIGN POLICY PLANK

REF: TEL AVIV 1597

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 8
THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE MADE PUBLIC ITS DRAFT
FOREIGN POLICY PROGRAM. THE DRAFT, WHICH WAS WRITTEN BY
A COMMITTEE HEADED BY AMNON RUBENSTEIN AND MEIR ZOREA,
MUST NOW BE APPROVED BY THE DMC'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH
WILL BE CHOSEN IN THE MARCH 15 INTERNAL PARTY ELECTION.

2. AS PUBLISHED BY THE JERUSALEM POST, THE PROGRAM DECLARES ISRAEL'S "DEFENSE BORDER IS THE JORDAN, INCLUDING AREAS WEST OF IT ESSENTIAL FOR ITS DEFENSE." IT ADDS: "TO RETAIN ITS JEWISH AND DEMOCRATIC NATURE, ISRAEL MUST BE READY FOR A TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE WHILE ASSURING ITS SECURITY NEEDS." THE POST QUOTES PROFESSOR YIGAEL YADIN AS EXPLAINING TO THE PRESS THAT "SECURITY CONSILIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DERATIONS WILL BE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN DETERMINING SETTLEMENT PREFERENCES. PRIMARY PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO SETTLEMENT IN THE JORDAN VALLEY." THE PLANK OPPOSES CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE WEST OF THE JORDAN; IT STATES: "ISRAEL'S NEIGHBOR TO THE EAST SHOULD BE ONE ARAB STATE, WHOSE CAPITAL WILL BE ON THE EAST BANK. THE PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN IDENTITY WILL BE SOLVED IN THAT

STATE. A SEPARATE SOVEREIGN PALESTINIAN STATE WEST OF THE JORDAN WOULD ENDANGER ISRAEL'S SECURITY AND EXISTENCE."

3. THE POST POINTS OUT THAT THE PROGRAM IS SIMILAR TO THE FOREIGN POLICY PLANKS ADOPTED BY THE LABOR PARTY AT ITS CONVENTION LAST MONTH. HOWEVER, IN ONE AREA THE DMC LANGUAGE IS FIRMER THAN LABOR'S. THE DMC WOULD "OPPOSE ANY WITHDRAWAL IN THE EAST (I.E., ON THE WEST BANK) ... WHICHIS NOT PART OF A FULL PEACE AGREEMENT." END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LIITED OFFICIAL USE: COMMENT: RUBENSTEIN AND ZOREA REPRESENT THE DOVE-HAWK EXTREMES OF THE PARTY. THE DMC'S DIFFICULTIES IN DRAFTING A PLATFORM SEEM TO HAVE BEEN REFLECTED IN ITS CANCELLATION OF A PRESS CONFERENCE ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS LAST WEEK; ONE WAS TO HAVE DEALT WITH FOREIGN POLICY AND THE OTHER WITH A PROPOSED ECONOMIC PROGRAM. REPORTEDLY, THE CAN-CELLATIONS AROSE OUT OF LAST MINUTE DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE. THE THRUST OF THIS FOREIGN POL-ICY PLANK, AND THE VIEWS EXPRESSED SO FAR ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES. PLACES THE DMC IN THE MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN LABOR AND LIKUD, WITH A TILT TOWARD THE FORMER. IT MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY IN DEMONSTRATING THAT ITS POSI-TIONS REPRESENT DIFFERENCES THAT ARE REALLY MEANINGFUL, GIVEN THAT THE LABOR, LIKUD AND DMC PLATFORMS WILL BE SIMILAR IN MANY RESPECTS. DUNNIGAN

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